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**Programme planning**

# Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

## Part two: biennial programme plan

## Programme 12
## Human settlements

Contents

| | Page |
|---|---|
| Overall orientation | 2 |
| Subprogramme 1. Shelter and sustainable human settlements development | 3 |
| Subprogramme 2. Monitoring the Habitat Agenda | 5 |
| Subprogramme 3. Regional and technical cooperation | 6 |
| Subprogramme 4. Human settlements financing | 7 |
| Legislative mandates | 8 |

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## Overall orientation

12.1 Responsibility for human settlements is vested in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which serves as the focal point for implementation of the programme. Under the overall development mission of reducing urban poverty and social exclusion, the goal of UN-Habitat is to improve the living and working environment in human settlements around the world. The main substantive mandate of UN-Habitat is derived from the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), whose goals are adequate shelter for all and the development of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world. The mandate of the programme also derives from General Assembly resolutions 3327 (XXIX), by which the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation was established, 32/162, by which the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was established, and 56/206 of 21 December 2001, by which the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) was elevated to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) under the intergovernmental guidance of a Governing Council, which reports to the Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. Important recent mandates derive from the Millennium Declaration goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020, and the target on water and sanitation of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. In addition, mandates come from relevant legislative bodies regarding Agenda 21 (chaps. 7, 21 and 28) and relevant resolutions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

12.2 World urban population is currently expanding at the rate of about 70 million people per year. It is estimated that most of these people will live in overcrowded urban slums where the main challenges are inadequate housing, lack of secure tenure, uncertain employment and lack of basic services, especially safe water and sanitation. Rapid urbanization in most developing countries, has caused deterioration in shelter conditions for the urban poor while conflicts and disasters are compounding the daunting task of creating sustainable human settlements. Central to meeting the challenge of urban poverty is replacing policies that encourage social and physical exclusion with policies that recognize and respect the rights of all, especially women and people living in poverty and those belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, to an adequate standard of living, for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing, housing, water and sanitation, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. In consultation with Governments, UN-Habitat develops and strengthens mechanisms for monitoring the impact of human settlements policies and programmes on the lives and work of women in cities, especially those in low-income areas and slums.

12.3 The strategy of UN-Habitat in meeting its objectives rests upon four pillars that have been translated into the four UN-Habitat subprogrammes: (a) advocacy of agreed norms for improving the lives of slum-dwellers, using as vehicles the two campaigns on secure tenure and good urban governance (Subprogramme 1: Shelter and sustainable human settlements development); (b) information generation and knowledge management, without which there can be no assessment of progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda or understanding of either the extent and condition of the world's slums or the trends in slum formation and changes in the lives of slum dwellers (Subprogramme 2: Monitoring the Habitat Agenda); (c) field

operations that tie the advocacy function to a learning process whereby technical assistance and capacity-building projects are designed to test methods and concepts that may be scaled up and transferred and to provide feedback to policy makers at all levels (Subprogramme 3: Regional and technical cooperation); and (d) facilitating financing of housing, infrastructure and other development requirements that will improve the lives of slum dwellers on a large scale (Subprogramme 4: Human settlements financing).

12.4 The work of UN-Habitat is concentrated in developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries where sustainable human settlements are necessary for post-conflict and post-disaster recovery (e.g., Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Mozambique, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq). UN-Habitat works directly with Governments and other Habitat Agenda partners in implementing its plan of work.

## Subprogramme 1
## Shelter and sustainable human settlements development

**Objective of the Organization**: To improve the shelter conditions of the world's poor and to ensure sustainable human settlements development.

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Improved regulatory frameworks and capacities that provide: security of tenure, progressive realization of land, housing and property rights, and increased supply of higher quality affordable housing for the poor, including women and HIV/AIDS orphans, especially in slums | (a) (i) Increased number of governments and local authorities introducing and implementing slum upgrading policies in line with the Millennium Declaration target on slums<br><br>(ii) Increased number of governments adopting regulatory frameworks for the progressive realization of land, housing and property rights, including women's property rights<br><br>(iii) Increased number of governments adopting policies and procedures for more open and affordable housing and land markets<br><br>(iv) Increased number of governments and local authorities introducing measures and policies to reduce forced evictions |
| (b) Improved capacity for delivering and managing affordable, reliable urban infrastructure and basic services, especially drinking water, sanitation, waste management and public transport | (b) (i) Increased number of cities implementing UN-Habitat-supported policies, strategies and programmes for increasing access of the urban poor to infrastructure<br><br>(ii) Increased number of countries and cities implementing policies, strategies |

| | |
|---|---|
| | and programmes designed to increase access of the urban poor to more reliable drinking water and sanitation |
| | (iii) Increased number of countries working with UN-Habitat to promote access to diverse and efficient public and non-motorized transport |
| (c) Improved capacity for urban governance, including decentralization and subsidiarity, inclusiveness, stakeholder participation, partnership, transparency and accountability, citizenship, efficiency and effective local leadership | (c) Increased number of countries and cities introducing and implementing policies, legislation and action plans and strengthening institutional planning and management arrangements for promoting good urban governance |
| (d) Improved capacity for more environmentally sustainable urban developments that are safer and less prone to disaster and better able to manage post-conflict and post-disaster situations | (d) (i) Increased number of governments and cities working with UN-Habitat to promote environmentally sustainable urban development and safer cities |
| | (ii) Increased number of governments and cities undertaking management of post-conflict and post-disaster situations through programme agreements for human settlements' rehabilitation |

**Strategy**

12.5 The responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Shelter and Sustainable Human Settlements Development Division (Global Division). The subprogramme's main strategy will be global advocacy, focusing on two global campaigns: the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance. The two campaigns will be aligned with efforts to implement the goals of the Millennium Declaration as set forth in resolution 55/2, particularly on achieving significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by the year 2020 as well as reducing by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by the year 2015. The campaigns will mobilize all Habitat Agenda partners in pursuit of these goals in order to achieve sustainable human settlements. There shall be an effort to enhance the global visibility of the campaigns.

12.6 The global programmes entailing normative, capacity-building and knowledge management activities on secure tenure, shelter and housing and property rights, urban environment, water and sanitation, shelter and HIV/AIDS, post-conflict and post-disaster management and safer cities will be carried out within the context of the campaigns, thereby assisting in translating normative work into practical real life processes at the national and community levels. Global programmes will, therefore, support national campaign launches and the implementation of national campaign action plans through the development of new policies and tools. The capacity at the national and local levels to contribute to planning, management and delivery of shelter, land, infrastructure and services will be supported by a dedicated capacity-

building programme, at the request of Governments. A special feature of the strategy will be to focus on the role of women as active participants and beneficiaries in the efforts to improve shelter conditions and urban governance.

## Subprogramme 2
## Monitoring the Habitat Agenda

**Objective of the Organization**: To monitor and assess progress towards the attainment of the Habitat Agenda goals and the targets of the Millennium Declaration and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on slums, safe drinking water and sanitation.

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Expanded global systems for the collection, analysis, documentation and dissemination of data and information on human settlement conditions, trends, policies and practices | (a) (i) Increased number of national observatories producing improved data on human settlement |
| | (ii) Increased number of local urban observatories producing improved data on human settlement |
| | (iii) More members of the Habitat Agenda Global Research Network contributing to UN-Habitat's flagship reports |
| | (iv) Higher number of active partners of the best practices and local leadership programme |
| (b) Enhanced capacity for mainstreaming gender, partnerships and youth concerns in human settlements activities | (b) (i) Increased number of human settlements programmes that mainstream gender |
| | (ii) Increased number of human settlements programmes that mainstream partnerships |
| | (iii) Increased number of human settlements programmes that mainstream youth concerns |
| (c) Better global awareness of sustainable human settlements issues | (c) (i) Increased number of scientific and media reviews of UN-Habitat's flagship reports and other publications |
| | (ii) Increased visits to UN-Habitat's electronic data on human settlements |
| | (iii) Higher numbers of orders for hard copies of UN-Habitat's flagship reports |

**Strategy**

12.7 The responsibility for the programme is vested in the Monitoring and Research Division (Urban Secretariat). The strategy consists of:

(a) Collecting, analysing, documenting and disseminating global data and information on human settlements conditions and trends, including indicators, best practices and policies, for assessing progress towards the attainment of the goals of the Habitat Agenda, as well as the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration as set forth in General Assembly resolution 55/2, especially on slums, safe drinking water and sanitation; and

(b) Identifying, developing, testing, disseminating and mainstreaming new and innovative policies and strategies on urban planning, urban economic development, urban-rural development linkages, municipal and housing finance, urban poverty eradication and employment generation, gender and women's empowerment, partnerships and youth.

## Subprogramme 3
## Regional and technical cooperation

**Objective of the Organization**: To strengthen the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, and programmes and to develop capacities primarily at the national and local levels.

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Enhanced capacity to implement human settlements policies, strategies and programmes with special focus on reduction of urban poverty and response to disasters | (a) (i) Increased number of countries that strengthen their institutions' ability to develop strategies to reduce urban poverty<br>(ii) Increased number of countries that strengthen their institutions' competence to respond to disasters |
| (b) Increased awareness of the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance, expanded knowledge of regional urban settlements management trends and development of policies to address these trends | (b) (i) Increased number of regional partners promoting the global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance<br>(ii) Increased number of regional partners participating in the analysis of best practices in settlements management<br>(iii) Increased number of regional partners contributing towards the preparation of flagship reports |
| (c) Improved ability of UN-Habitat to respond to requests for technical assistance and policy advice at the national and local levels | (c) Increased number of countries benefiting from UN-Habitat's technical cooperation activities |

**Strategy**

12.8 Responsibility for the subprogramme is vested in the Regional and Technical Cooperation Division. To achieve the objective, UN-Habitat combines normative and operational functions. The normative functions include setting standards, proposing norms and principles and examples of best practices and good policies built on experience gained through the two global campaigns — on secure tenure and on urban governance. The operational activities consist of policy formulation, capacity-building programmes and demonstration projects that support the normative work of UN-Habitat in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at the request of Governments. Women are expected to be active participants and beneficiaries of the programmes and projects implemented under this subprogramme including those aimed at mainstreaming gender issues and policies.

## Subprogramme 4
## Human settlements financing

**Objective of the Organization**: To facilitate mobilization of investments from international and domestic sources in support of adequate shelter, related infrastructure development programmes and housing finance institutions and mechanisms, particularly in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition.

| Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat | Indicators of achievement |
|---|---|
| (a) Strengthened United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation as an effective institution for the mobilization of financial resources for pro-poor human settlements development, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition | (a) Increased level of resources mobilized for pro-poor human settlements development |
| (b) Increased financial resources for human settlements development leveraged by the Foundation from domestic sources through strengthened domestic policies and mechanisms for financing housing and related infrastructure, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition | (b) Increase in the number of countries working with the Foundation to strengthen policies and mechanisms for financing housing and related infrastructure |
| (c) Expanded partnerships and alliances between UN-Habitat and international and regional institutions to increase investments for improving human settlements for low-income people, particularly in developing countries and countries with economies in transition | (c) Increased number of partnerships and alliances formed and developed to increase investment allocations for improving human settlements |

**Strategy**

12.9 The responsibility of this subprogramme is vested in the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (the Foundation). The strategy for implementing the objective includes:

(a) Strengthening the Foundation for more effective mobilization of resources, both from the public and private sectors, for shelter and related infrastructure in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition, with special focus on the needs of slum-dwellers and low-income groups and on the implementation of the Millennium Declaration target on slum upgrading;

(b) At the request of Governments, providing finance for the mobilization of seed capital and technical assistance to develop and support mechanisms for mobilizing domestic savings and capital in order to improve the availability of affordable housing, adequate shelter and infrastructure in developing countries and in countries with economies in transition; and

(c) Working with the World Bank Group, regional development banks, other development banks, the private sector, United Nations agencies and other relevant partners to link the normative and technical cooperation activities of UN-Habitat with the financing institutions, and to mobilize finance from international sources to play a catalytic and preparatory role in leveraging domestic investment for slum upgrading and other pro-poor human settlements development.

## Legislative mandates

*General Assembly resolutions*

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|---|---|
| 53/242 | Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements |
| 54/232 | Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty |
| 55/2 | United Nations Millennium Declaration |
| 57/144 | Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit |
| 56/206 | Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role, and functions of the United Nations Centre for the Human Settlements (Habitat) |
| S-25/2 | Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium |
| 57/270 B | Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields |
| 57/275 | Special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) |
| 58/217 | International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015 |

58/218 Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

58/222 Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

58/226 Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

58/230 Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development (subprogrammes 2 and 4)

58/269 Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change

*Economic and Social Council resolutions, decisions and agreed conclusions*

2002/1 Agreed conclusions 2002/1 on strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration

2003/6 The role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits

2003/62 Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

*Governing Council resolutions*

18/4 Implementation of General Assembly resolution 53/242 and cooperation between the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme (subprogrammes 1 to 3)

19/2 Work programme and budget of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme for the biennium 2004-2005

19/5 Implementing and monitoring the goal of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum-dwellers

19/6 Water and sanitation in cities

19/16 Women's role and rights in human settlements development and slum upgrading

**Subprogramme 1**
**Shelter and sustainable human settlements development**

*Governing Council resolutions*

16/7 The realization of the human right to adequate housing

17/10 Rural dimension of sustainable urban development

18/3 Global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance

18/5 International cooperation and the review of mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agenda

18/11 Intensifying dialogue on effective decentralization and strengthening of local authorities within the framework of the Habitat Agenda

19/3 Global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance

19/4 Cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme

19/12 Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

**Subprogramme 2**
**Monitoring the Habitat Agenda**

*General Assembly resolutions*

34/114 Global report on human settlements and periodic reports on international cooperation and assistance on human settlements

55/194 Scope to be covered by the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

2001/22 Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits: coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda

*Governing Council resolutions*

17/10 Rural dimension of sustainable urban development

18/10 The role of local authorities

19/10 Urban-rural linkages and sustainable urbanization

19/13 Enhancing the engagement of youth in the work of UN-Habitat

**Subprogramme 3**
**Regional and technical cooperation**

*Governing Council resolutions*

19/7 Regional and technical cooperation

19/15 Countries with economies in transition

19/18 Human settlements development in the occupied Palestinian territories

**Subprogramme 4**
**Human settlements financing**

*General Assembly resolution*

3327 (XXIX) Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation

*Governing council resolutions*

19/11 Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation